

CONGRESS.

The Senate transacted but little business of public interest.

The House voted twice for Speaker, but with no definite result. A proposition to elect a presiding officer by ballot met with but little favor, it having been laid on the table by a vote of two hundred and thirteen against seven. The time was principally occupied in debates members availing themselves of the opportunity presented for defining their positions.

ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE—THE DEMOCRATIC AND THE CONSERVATIVE KNOW-NOTHINGS.

The monotony of calling the roll with the view of electing a Speaker of the House, has been somewhat relieved for the last day or two by short and piquant speeches. On Tuesday a proposition was made by Mr. Walker, of Alabama, who represents the Mobile district, and who belongs to the Southern wing of the Know-nothings, to the following effect:

"He called upon all conservative men, irrespective of party, who were anxious, as he was, to effect an organization and to preserve the rights of the country, to meet in the hall at half-past seven o'clock for the purpose of having a conference, in order to devise some plan by which a conservative organization of the House might be had."

This call gave rise to an animated discussion, in which a number of gentlemen participated, and in which some sharp but no rude remarks were made. For some time the discussion turned on the Pennsylvania elections, and was carried on by Pennsylvania members. The question discussed was the identity of Know-nothingism and Free-soilism in Pennsylvania. The Hon. J. Glancey Jones represented the Democratic side of the question in the most satisfactory manner. He showed himself as quick at repartee as he is forcible in argument. It was difficult to decide whether he excelled in asking or answering puzzling questions. But as we published the debate in our last issue, it is needless to refer in detail to it here.

Our present purpose is to offer a few remarks in relation to the call which was made by the member from Alabama, on "all conservative men, irrespective of party." As some doubt arose during the discussion in regard to the precise language employed by that gentleman, and in regard to the precise object which he had in view, he stated his object and repeated his language, as follows:

"What I did say was this—and, in repeating it, I beg the attention of the House to my words, and hope that they will be weighed properly: That, so far as I was concerned, desiring, as I did, a proper conservative organization of this House, and believing, as I did, that I was expressing the wishes of most of those who have thus far co-operated with me, I was willing, in the event of the House not organizing to-day, to meet in this hall this evening all the members of this House who are willing to abide by the existing laws upon the question of slavery, and are opposed to the further agitation of that question, here or elsewhere, and who are prepared to vote for the admission of any State into this Union, whether that State permits slavery in its constitution or not. These, I think, were my words."

Here was a distinct proposition for a mixed caucus of Democrats and conservative Know-nothings, made with a view to a conservative organization.

It is encouraging to contemplate one aspect of this proposition. That which denotes that there are others besides Democrats in the House of Representatives who will fight fanaticism to the bitter end, and who will refuse alliance with any party that is not recognized as conservative in its character. This proposition, or call, is also highly complimentary to the Democratic party. True, it does not specifically and by name, call upon the Democrats to meet in conference, but it is easy to show that they and none others were intended by this proposition, which came from the Southern wing of the Know-nothing party. Of course it could not refer to the Black Republicans and the Free-soilers. Nor could it refer to the Northern wing of the Know-nothings, which is rankly Free-soil, with a few exceptions, and has long since split off from the Southern members of that order. It must have meant, and only meant, the National Democracy of the House, who have as one man stood up to the support of their gallant candidate, Colonel Richardson, and manfully resisted all the unsound elements arrayed against them. This is a tribute to the Democracy which cannot be without its effect upon the country.

There is, however, another aspect presented by this proposition to which we shall briefly address ourselves.

As the Democrats of the House far outnumber the Southern Know-Nothings, and the few conservative Northern Know-Nothings who act with them, and as the Democrats are universally acknowledged to be sound and conservative, it is not unreasonable to expect them to break up their organization, repudiate their name, throw away all discipline, sacrifice their chosen candidate, and go pell-mell into a caucus with all who choose to meet them? We think it is unreasonable. The few cannot expect the many to give to them after such a fashion. If the Southern Know-Nothings think that the Democrats are conservative men, that they are sound on the slavery question—that question which severed the Northern and Southern members of the new order, and in one moment destroyed its nationality—if they think these things, then without caucus, call, or proposition, without parley, conference, or hesitation, they ought, as individuals to vote for the sound, conservative National Democrat who is offered to them in the person of Colonel Richardson.

It is idle to suppose that the well organized, firmly cemented Democracy of the House, will for a moment dream of going into a mixed, unnamed, uncertain caucus. As Mr. Jones said, "The Democratic party will meet in no caucus, except a caucus of their own party, upon their own principles."

We are glad to know that the conservative members of the new order are willing even in a qualified form, to co-operate with us. Their pride exacts conditions, but our integrity as a party forbids the idea of granting them. If

they think, as they must think, that the Democratic party is right in regard to the organization of the House, if they cannot conscientiously act with any other party and are helpless and hopeless by themselves, they ought to cast pride to the winds, and come up like men and co-operate with the Democracy, without demanding conditions or concessions.

We fear that pride will prevail with them, and are disposed to believe that the debate which took place on Tuesday will drive them still further off.

No man knows what a day or an hour may bring forth; but the general, almost universal impression is, that organization is at present an impossibility.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE TO ORGANIZE?

There are a great many people who hate the Democratic party, and who endeavor to hold it responsible for every bad thing that takes place in the world. All Abolitionists, all Free-soilers, all the advocates of isms, all unsound Whigs, and all unsound Know-nothings, equally abhor it. Why it is so, we will not stop to inquire, but certain it is that antagonistic as the several parties we have named are to each other, they are every ready to unite their forces in order to defeat the Democracy. It is also certain that they endeavor to hold the Democracy responsible for everything bad that happens in the political world.

The cry has been raised by the whole opposition press that the Democrats of the House of Representatives are responsible for the failure thus far to organize. Not only do unsound Whigs and Know-nothings join in this cry, but, unpleasant to say, even conservative Whigs and Southern Know-nothings lend their emphasis to it.

That the Democrats cannot, by themselves, elect a Speaker, is plain to all. That they will not, and ought not, either directly or indirectly aid in the election of a political antagonist, all Democrats at least will acknowledge. They are doing the country and the Constitution a service when they prevent such an election, particularly when the candidate is altogether sectional, fanatical, and unsound in his sentiments.

But how are they responsible for the failure to organize? If, as they do not constitute a majority? If, as a member of Congress said the other day in some remarks he addressed to the House, the Democrats had one majority, the election would be made at once. The majority is against them, and surely the majority must, on all the principles of justice and right reasoning, be held responsible for the failure to organize.

The Democracy cannot, for want of numerical force, elect, but they can prevent an improper election. If it is intended to blame them for preventing the election of a Free-soiler, they are willing to take the blame.

"THE PRESIDENT AND KANSAS."

The Union copies from the Boston Post an article with the above caption, which contains many good points, but it is ambidextrous—it is a two-edged sword. It begins with exceptional premises at variance with the conclusions arrived at. We object to the following:

"The emigrants sent out by the aid company in a majority of instances were actual bona fide settlers, determined to make Kansas their future home. The Missourians 'frequently' were mere transient sojourners, with no intention to become settlers in Kansas."

The phraseology is insidious: "A majority of the aid company were bona fide settlers frequently; the Missourians were sojourners." We desire to know which were the most numerous, the minority of the aid company, or the "frequenters" of the Missourians. It is evident enough which impression is intended.

Again: "The election of members of the first Territorial Legislature came on. It is confessed that the Missourians from the border counties rushed in and overpowered the actual settlers."

By whom is this confession made? We have seen the accounts stating that the Missourians went to locate with the intention of bringing their families as soon as practicable; very many, nearly all, were there long before many of the aid company had arrived. Objection is made to the Missourian of two weeks' residence, and none to the member of the aid society of an hour's residence. Who was the judge that the Missourian was not an actual settler in two weeks' residence, and the member of the aid society was an actual settler the day his foot touched the soil? Yet such is the distinction made by the Post and copied by the Union. While we approve, in the main, the conclusions of the Post, we differ from it in regard to the facts upon which it bases its premises.

Re-election of Senator Mason.

The Pennsylvania of the 18th inst. thus speaks of the re-election of Senator Mason.

"The State of Virginia, true to her old policy of re-electing her Senators when they are willing to serve her again, recently elected Hon. J. M. Mason to represent her for six years longer in the United States Senate. Mr. Mason is one of the ablest members of the Senate, and has been Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations for some time. It appears from the papers of the day, that he has again been selected for that distinguished post. Virginia sees the propriety of keeping her public servants on the high road of advancement. This system of re-electing Senators gives States immense influence in the Councils of the Nation. This may be seen by adverting to the fact, that two Senators of Virginia at this time occupy two of the most prominent posts of the Senate. Thus, Mr. Mason is Chairman of Foreign Relations, and Mr. Hunter, Chairman of the Committee on Finance."

The changing policy of the Northern and Middle States, detracts greatly from the strength and force of these States. The science of Legislation comes not by intuition. To be perfected in its details, and to grasp with a master mind the diversified interest of a Nation, requires a long schooling in the public councils. It is therefore a prodigious error for these States to pass by men who are eminently qualified by long experience to hold seats in the National Legislature, and send novices there to defend their State's multifarious claims, against the well-trained legislative tacticians of the South. An able Representative, in either House of Congress, is of inestimable value to the Commonwealth he may be called to represent.

VISIT OF THE AMOSKEAG VETERANS TO THE PRESIDENT.

Colonel Potter, commanding the Veterans, addressed the President as follows:

Colonel Potter's Speech.

MR. PRESIDENT: Coming, as we do, from New Hampshire—the county of Hillsborough, glorious "Old Hillsborough," your home—we present ourselves before you as your neighbors and friends, calling for friendly salutation and greeting on our pilgrimage to the tomb of the "Father of his Country." We call as veterans—for what men can better claim that title than those who hail from the land of Blanchard, Goffe, Stark, the Pierces, father and sons, Miller, and McNeil—men whose deeds, whose names, shall be remembered as long as Lake George, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton, Bennington, Saratoga, Monmouth, Yorktown, Niagara, Lundy's Lane, Contreras, Chapultepec—aye, Mexico—shall have an existence in fact, in history, or in song.

This meeting is the incident of a lifetime. To all of us it may be a page of deep-lived history. Its circumstances—the name of this corps, Amoskeag Veterans—are suggestive of, bring up memories of the past of vast interest and importance. The name is a word in the language of a people who once held sway over the entire territory of the central United States. This nation had its political system, its national policy, its kings, and its emperors. Yet, this people, in little more than two hundred years, has been, as it were, swept from the land with the besom of destruction, before the withering tread of the Anglo-Saxon. History, imperfect history, and the tradition of a few wandering and scattered tribes, alone tell of their former, and now almost forgotten, greatness.

A new race of men has succeeded them. Upon their ruins has risen this great Republic. Their history, together with the history of the ancient governments of Europe and Asia, teaches us that their fate may yet be ours. Distant, far distant, be that day! But should that day come, should that time when the sun of freedom, that now shines so brightly on the political firmament, obscured by the murky clouds of anarchy and confusion, shall set in everlasting night; and where now is this glorious Constitution, where now is this glorious Confederacy; where now is this national, substantial freedom, shall remain only a name, a phantom semblance, or shattered fragments, depend upon it, that history will record that the fact that the men of Amoskeag were found in solid phalanx, and with banners flying, doing noble battle for the law, the Constitution, and the Union. Permit me, Mr. President, to introduce to you the Amoskeag Veterans, a corps of troops of which I glory in being the commander.

The President's Speech.

The President replied, in substance, as follows:

COLONEL: I recognize in your corps members who were companions of my boyhood, and those who have been the constant and cherished friends of my mature years, and notwithstanding the martial equipment and bearing of your phalanx, I am reminded of the fact that you are not so much soldiers, as you are citizens, and that you are, rather, as personal friends than either. Your presence and your words fill my mind and heart with thoughts and sentiments of home. Dear old county of Hillsborough! She has always been full of good men and good deeds. Her broken, rugged territory—her true, steady, intelligent population—her familiar to me, were they all for twenty years of my life, the leaping streams and the mountain scenery, so well known to my childhood, and so attractive still, are there yet, and will be when I return to New Hampshire to pass the decline of life in your midst, as I hope in the Providence of God to do, not without some degree of usefulness, and some of the labors of a brother of that earlier period are there no longer. It is to be regretted that the venerable men of the revolution, whom we were all accustomed to meet with such respect—may I not say affectionate reverence—have passed away, and with them the larger portion of those who served in the war of 1812. I remember that so late as the year 1824, four years after the war, I saw a man, who lived in the town of my birth, and one of our oldest settlers, who was all assembled around my father's table, but now I suppose not a single individual in the county who participated in the battles of the revolution still survives.

These men gave to the popular heart a tone which has descended to you, and how far your presence there today, in this graceful and honored uniform, is the result of the noble and potent influence no man may say. I think, however, that members of your battalion, before me, who served in the war of 1812, will tell you that, when you were forming this organization, they were reminded of companies called "the alarm lists," which assembled and drilled in many parts of New Hampshire during that war, and which were made up of men who bore the scars of the revolution.

It is a proud reflection to me, and I am sure it is to you that you are from a county which was never found wanting when her sons were called to meet a foreign foe. You pursue your daily avocations within sight of the shaft which was the dust of the stern, strong soldier who, at Bennington, announced the advance of victory for the colonists or widowhood for Molly Stark, and you have shown that you are not insensible to the power of elevated education. You honor, by your organization, the memory of the gallant men who have served and honored not only our native country and our native State, but the whole country.

I welcome you as types of that citizen soldiery which constitutes the military strength of the republic, manifested in every stage of its history. You are the fit representatives and the successors of the class of men who won our independence by the first war, who assured it by the second, and who have more recently come to our aid in a foreign country, remote from home resources.

The United States have never had a large standing army, nor a large permanent military marine. Is the republic, therefore, feeble in a military sense? Far from it! The fact that we are not burdened by taxes for the support of an immense army and a vast navy, and that our Federal aid and military force is apparently small, will add immensely to our strength, and the hour to try it shall come. In periods of public tranquility, the strong hands and bold hearts of the nation are not withdrawn from the cultivation of the arts of peace, to become a burden on the revenues of the country and a constant source of peril to its institutions. They are engaged in many useful pursuits of life—in agriculture, in commerce, in the learned professions, in reclaiming this continent of ours to civilization, to freedom, and thereby carrying the flag and the fame of the Union to every sea and every clime. It is nevertheless true that our citizens, although peace-loving, and pursuing peaceful avocations, are ready, when called to arms, and to the spirit of self-reliance, courage, which teaches their exercise, and of patriotism, which animates their use in the cause of the country. Hence it was, as you have suggested, that in the war of 1776, at Bunker Hill, at Bennington, at Monmouth, at Saratoga, at Yorktown, or at King's Mountain, there were called to stock citizens soldiers, to repel the invader; that in the war of 1812, whether the river Thames, or at New Orleans, in the North or in the South, determined and effective armies were never wanting to the Union; that in the war of 1846, the farmer, the merchant, the mechanic, the lawyer, the physician, the statesman, ennobled by the field, at the public call, in such numbers that the question with my friend near me, then Secretary of War, (Gov. Marcy,) was not whether he should derive salaries, but whom of the two hundred thousand of eager and enrolled volunteers should be accepted; and hence it was that the citizen soldiers, in con-

junction with a small but most gallant, scientific, and thoroughly drilled regular army, upon the field as a nucleus they formed, nobly sustained their country's arms, and made every field a field of victory.

It is beautiful to see the energies of a martial people, with such capabilities and resources for war, devoted to the arts of peace. It would be fearful to see them exerted in a great struggle of arms. A nation, however, which can readily summon to the field five hundred thousand brave, intelligent, hardy men, accustomed from boyhood to the saddle, and to the use of the rifle and the musket, is not in a condition to invite aggression by any supposed want of ability to repel it.

I have detained you too long; but you will pardon these thoughts, which come to the mind spontaneously on an occasion like this. You are not ungrateful of the dignity and importance of your position as citizen soldiers at a period when the United States have become one of the great powers hereafter to direct the destiny of man. The social position and elevated character of the members of this battalion, the respect universally accorded to them at home, cannot fail to animate with a fresh impulse the volunteer militia of New Hampshire. I tender to you my acknowledgments for the service you are rendering our native State in this and in other respects; and I beg you to accept my cordial thanks for the gratification which your visit affords me personally. I shall hope to see each and all of you, before your departure, in a manner less formal than the present occasion will admit. Wishing you the highest degree of enjoyment, you can have anticipated, I desire to avail myself of the privilege often enjoyed before, of grasping you individually by the hand.

The following account of the visit of the "Veterans" to Mount Vernon, and proceedings there, we take from the correspondence of the Baltimore Sun, of yesterday. It will be read with interest, while the day, and its association will long be cherished in the memories of the "Stark Veterans."

At an early hour this morning President Pierce made a visit to the United States Hotel and paid his respects to his old friends and neighbors, the Amoskeag Veterans. He also extended to them an invitation to dine with him and his Cabinet Ministers at the Mansion, to-morrow afternoon at four o'clock. The invitation was respectfully declined, and a social party to-morrow afternoon substituted.

Our harbor has not looked so gay for a long time. The steamers and vessels displaying their flags, and the flags flying from the masts and pennants of the frigates, were a sight to be seen.

At half-past nine o'clock, the Veterans, with their celebrated band of music, flags, &c., took up the line of march in true military style for the steamer George Washington, under command of Captain Jay Corson. They were also accompanied by Lieut. Col. Reilly, Major Key, Adj. Gen. J. Bacon, Surgeon Duhamel, Lieut. Col. J. H. Smith, and a detachment of the Washington Light Infantry. National Guard, Scott Guards, German Yeagers, and other units of the National Guard. On reaching the wharf such was the degree of intensity manifested that the other beautiful steamer the Thomas Collier, Captain Godney, with private flag, was brought into requisition and despatched a little in advance.

On the wharf the visitors and their associates were met and cordially welcomed by that venerable man, Col. George Washington Parke Custis, extending both hands with a cordial welcome to the metropolis of our common country. This scene was peculiarly affecting. Here, amidst a land of England's nobles, men of education, of high social position, wealth and influence. They are for the first time in their life's history about to tread the sacred soil of Mount Vernon, a portion of the Old Dominion. The people of the Middle States greeted them with every demonstration of kindness. At this point they were welcomed by the hands of sixty thousand people, and now as they stepped on the gay steamer, proudly to sail on the beautiful Potomac, they are approached, saluted, and welcomed by one of the most venerated citizens. The relative and coadjutor of Washington. The North and the South are one, and we this day feel it in our heart of hearts.

Arriving at the Alexandria wharf, an immense crowd of spectators, all ages and colors, to witness the Amoskeag Veterans, whilst landing the band played "Hail Columbia." The boat then proceeded to Fort Washington, and whilst landing the band played "Yankee Doodle." Upon landing the Veterans, together with the citizens, joined in the line of march and proceeded to visit the Fort—after arriving there, the Veterans were met by the citizens, and after spending half an hour in break ranks, they were introduced to the Fort. The fort, the buildings, the Company returned to the boat, and resumed their journey to Mount Vernon. The Captain as usual told his bell upon reaching the home of Washington, and the band struck up the solemn dirge of the "Dead March." The Company upon landing, formed in line, and marched up to gaze upon the place where rests the mortal remains of him who was the Father of his Country. The band then played "Washington's Grand March." The battalion wretches drawn up in a line, and they marched past the tomb with heads uncovered.

Col. Potter then addressed his battalion, and in his remarks alluded to the privilege of being permitted to gaze upon the subject of their veneration, the remains of him who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." He dwelt upon his virtues, and remarked that he knew "no North, no South, no East, no West."

Gen. Geo. W. P. Custis, the grand-son and only surviving relative of Gen. Washington, was then introduced to the Veterans, by Col. Potter. In the course of his remarks he said no man would go from this place without being a better man, a soldier and patriot.

He then referred to the battles of Lexington, Concord, Charlestown, and said that all the honor belonged to New England. In the course of his remarks, he related many pleasing anecdotes, and was listened to with deep attention. The Company then marched to the old Homestead, and after registering their names in the book, they were introduced to the prepared by our worthy townsman, John Pettibone. After this they returned to the boat, and highly pleased with their visit, and were soon safely landed in Washington. The company enjoyed themselves finely, and the utmost good humor prevailed throughout the whole trip.

ADMIRAL BREVET, commander of the French fleet in the Black sea, whose death of Messina was announced by the last steamer's papers, was but fifty-nine years of age, and enjoyed a high reputation in the French navy. He was an Alsatian, born at Colmar, May 26th, 1796, educated at the naval school of Brest, and in 1815 entered the Navy. In 1827, he became lieutenant, and with that rank, commanded the brig Adventure at the blockades of Algiers. The brig was captured and he and his crew were taken to the taking of the city by the French. He was then tried by court martial for the loss of the Adventure, and was sentenced to the State's prison, keeping up a spirited life, involving personal explanations.

MR. WASHINGTON, of Illinois, asked Mr. Jones, whether he was not a member of the order. Mr. JONES: No, I am an American, but have nothing to do with Know-Nothingism, [laughter] which has no place in the country.

MR. WASHINGTON, in the course of his remarks asked Mr. Jones whether he and his friends

Congressional.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate—Tuesday, December 18, 1855.

Memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred, as follows:

By Mr. SUMNER: From J. S. Richardson asking an appropriation to make a practical experiment of his patent atmospheric telegraph in transit across the continent.

By Mr. MASON: From Elizabeth V. Lomax, only surviving child of Captain Wm. P. Lindsay, of Lee's legion of the Revolution, asking five full pay of a captain of dragoons, with interest.

By Mr. PRATT: From Susan T. Lea administratrix of James Maglieni, asking compensation for property lost in the service of the United States during the war of 1812.

By Mr. JONES, of Iowa: From Jonas P. Levy, asking a revision by Congress of the action of the First Congress of the Treasury upon the act for the relief of the petitioner. The petitioner requests Congress to call upon the Comptroller for all the documents in the case, including especially that to which he had been denied access, or which had been surreptitiously suppressed. When the documents are produced and examined the petitioner believes that they will clearly establish all the grave charges which have been preferred against him, and that the Comptroller is fully entitled to ample reparation for the losses originally sustained, to indemnification for the delays, expenses, and outrages to which he has been exposed by the illegal and oppressive conduct of the Comptroller.

Several memorials and accompanying papers were withdrawn from the files, on motion of Senators, for the purpose of being again referred to a committee.

Several notices of bills relating to internal improvements were given.

Mr. CLAYTON submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That there be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate to the Hon. Jesse D. Bright the difference between the amount now received by him from the date of his election as President of the Senate pro tempore to the close of his service as such, according to the practice which has heretofore prevailed.

Mr. CLAYTON observed that the four last officers of the Senate had been paid in the manner presented by the resolution, and he presumed there could be no objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to without a dissenting voice.

Mr. BELLE asked the Senate to take up a resolution, submitted by him some days since, in relation to the reference of papers relating to private claims, as well as private bills on the calendar at its last session, to the Committee of Claims. A member of the Senate from Maine, (Mr. HAMLEN) which was with the original resolution. A suggestion had been made also by the Senator from Michigan that the safest course would be to refer the whole subject to the Committee of Claims for its investigation, and which course he had no objection, and would therefore make that motion.

Mr. FITZPATRICK objected to the fact of the Committee of Claims having an interest in a claim for property lost in 1836, which had already received the favorable action of the Senate, and which might be prejudiced by being subjected to a vote, uncolored in the resolution or amendment. On reflection, however, he believed it was a class of claims for the consideration of the Court of Claims, and he would make no objection to the resolution.

The resolution of Mr. BELLE and the amendment of Mr. HAMLEN were referred to the Committee of Claims.

House of Representatives.

MR. WALKER rose to a personal explanation, defending the Southern Know-nothings from the attacks of the Mobile Register, saying that they were not a target for the press of the country, but they had been used here as "battering and shuttlecock" by the Republicans on one side, and the Democrats on the other. The members of the House, however, were not to be deceived by the House assembled, had nominated their candidate and adopted resolutions which many of the more conservative of them admit was an insult to the members of the floor. The fact must be realized that, if Southern Know-nothings, on the opening of this contest, had thrown themselves into the ranks of the Democrats, the result would have been a Free-soil organization. They have prevented it. He denied that the Democratic party is a national party, and claimed nationality for the American party.

MR. JONES, of Pennsylvania, said that that State, instead of being represented by six National Democratic votes to-day, would have had seventeen, had it not been for the Know-nothings, who were not to be deceived by the fact that they were not a target for the press of the country, but they had been used here as "battering and shuttlecock" by the Republicans on one side, and the Democrats on the other. The members of the House, however, were not to be deceived by the House assembled, had nominated their candidate and adopted resolutions which many of the more conservative of them admit was an insult to the members of the floor. The fact must be realized that, if Southern Know-nothings, on the opening of this contest, had thrown themselves into the ranks of the Democrats, the result would have been a Free-soil organization. They have prevented it. He denied that the Democratic party is a national party, and claimed nationality for the American party.

MR. WALKER replied, saying, in course of his remarks, that the Democratic party was not a national party, and claimed nationality for the American party. He denied that the Democratic party is a national party, and claimed nationality for the American party.

MR. WASHINGTON, of Illinois, asked Mr. Jones, whether he was not a member of the order. Mr. JONES: No, I am an American, but have nothing to do with Know-Nothingism, [laughter] which has no place in the country.

MR. WASHINGTON, in the course of his remarks asked Mr. Jones whether he and his friends

would go into such a meeting as that to which they had this morning been politely invited by the gentleman from Alabama? (Mr. WALKER.)

MR. ORR: We will take that into consideration.

MR. JONES: The Democrats will meet in caucus, with none but those standing on that party's well-settled principles.

MR. ALLISON, participating in the controversy raised by his two colleagues, said that the majority of the members of Congress from Pennsylvania were elected as opponents of the Nebraska bill, that being the great issue in the late election.

MR. ETHRIDGE thought the House needed repose from the intellectual exertions of the morning.

MR. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, said that he had been in two days. [Laughter.] and he trusted the House would now adjourn.

Cries of "No!" and "Call the roll."

MR. SMITH, of Virginia, asked Mr. Campbell, of Pennsylvania, whether Mr. Banks had cut himself aloof from the American party.

MR. CAMPBELL: Don't know.

MR. SMITH then asked Mr. BANKS had withdrawn from that party. The Convention which nominated Rockwell was called by the American party.

MR. SMITH then defined his position, condemning Free-soilism, approving of the foreign test of Americanism, and declaring himself a national man.

MR. GIDDINGS, placing himself in front of the Clerk's desk, declaimed spiritedly in favor of freedom, and the building the Republican Church upon a rock that the waves of hell shall not prevail against.

MR. LETCHER called Mr. GIDDINGS' attention to the resolution offered by the latter and adopted in a Republican meeting, insisting that a majority of Free-soilers be placed upon the standing committee, and asking various questions concerning it.

MR. GIDDINGS remarked that he understood every Northern man to be pledged to that doctrine.

MR. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, said no such resolution was a test for him.

MR. GIDDINGS exclaimed, "God forgive me for saying a man who was not in heart and conscience with it!"

MR. BANKS desired to say that if any such resolution was adopted it was not tendered to him for approval.

MR. GIDDINGS was frequently interrupted, answering various interrogations from all quarters. [Lively times and great confusion.]

MR. GIDDINGS then moved that the Democratic party, showing its discordant elements; the question of squatter sovereignty called forth Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania, in explanation, claiming that he should not be party, which like the Democratic party, have no quarrel to make to offer or accept. They ask no quarter and regard no men as Americans except those who stand by the principles of the party. He was frequently interrupted by applause from his friends, and was listened to with marked attention.

MR. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, obtained the floor, and the House adjourned.

Senate—Wednesday, December 19, 1855.

PETITIONS PRESENTED, ETC.

MR. CLAYTON presented several memorials, all praying indemnity for spoils committed by the French prior to 1850. In presenting these memorials Mr. C. said that he should not refer to their reference to any committee, but would suffer them to lie on the table for the present. He desired, however, to avail himself of this opportunity to make a single remark, and he was conscious of the President came in at so late an hour of the last session, that no opportunity was afforded for a full discussion of it. It was one which he was exceedingly anxious to discuss, and in reference to which he would say now, that the single aid upon which the whole message was predicated was an error—an error of fact. The message was based on the ground that the claims of these petitioners were paid under the treaty of Louisiana of 1803. The whole question was thus reduced to a question of fact. If it was true that the claims had been paid under the treaty, there ought to be an end of them. If, on the other hand, it was not true, and if that was the only ground upon which the President based his veto message, the claims ought to be paid. When the veto message came at the last session, he was conscious of the fact that there existed in the Department of State testimony which would completely refute the idea entertained by the President, that these claims had not been paid under the treaty. There were to be found the names of all the claimants who were paid under that treaty, and there were also the names of all who claimed in the treaty. The two lists being put side by side, and it appears that not a single one of those who ask for indemnity from this Government on account of these spoils is included in the list of those who were paid under the treaty. He merely rose to make this remark; and at some future day he should call up these petitions for the purpose of considering the subject more fully.

MR. RUSK presented the petition of James Harrington, a laborer on the Smithsonian grounds, praying to be allowed extra compensation; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

MR. FISH presented the memorial of Captain John B. Montgomery, of the United States Navy, praying to be released from his liability for an indebtedness of \$100,000, which he had incurred for recruiting purposes, and lost by the sinking of the bank in which it was deposited; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

MR. CLAYTON presented the memorial of Ursula P. Levy, late (Capt. Levy) of the United States, complaining of the action of the Naval Board constituted under the act of Congress of February 28, 1855; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.